

## RESOLUTION NO. 353-07

BY: **SEAN BRENNAN**

A RESOLUTION URGING THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT THE PASSAGE OF H.R. 3498, CITED AS THE NEIGHBORHOOD RECLAMATION AND REVITALIZATION PROGRAM ACT OF 2007, WHICH WILL AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO MAKE GRANTS TO ASSIST CITIES WITH A VACANT HOUSING PROBLEM AND ADDITIONALLY URGING THAT THE APPROPRIATIONS SHOULD BE INCREASED TO \$500,000,000, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, vacant foreclosed properties often become a breeding ground for crime and fires, and require a disproportionate amount of government maintenance, from securing properties against criminal activity to removal of garbage and rodents to demolition, all at a cost to taxpayers; and,

WHEREAS, vacant properties reduce city tax revenue in three ways: they are often tax delinquent; their low value means they generate little in taxes; and they depress property values across an entire neighborhood; and,

WHEREAS, the citizens who live in neighborhoods with many vacant and abandoned properties have great difficulty obtaining homeowner's insurance, mortgages and loans for home improvements; and,

WHEREAS, vacant properties degrade and devalue the quality of life for remaining residents, isolating and weakening the neighborhood, and increasing the likelihood that property values will continue to decline and further abandonment will set in; and,

WHEREAS, the foreclosure crisis is due in part to lax regulation of mortgage lending and predatory actions of certain lenders. It is incumbent that the Federal government assist local government with the additional funding to reduce the impacts of vacant properties and provide local government the ability to demolish large inventories of vacant housing; and,

WHEREAS, the authorized appropriation in the current Bill of \$100,000,000 over the next three years is not adequate to meet the needs of cities; and,

WHEREAS, the authorized appropriation is recommended to be a minimum of \$500,000,000 over the next three years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PARMA, STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That this Council hereby urges the U.S. House of Representatives to support the passage of H.R. 3498, cited as the Neighborhood Reclamation and Revitalization Program Act of 2007, which will authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make grants to assist cities with a vacant housing problem and additionally urging that the appropriations should be increased to \$500,000,000.

Revitalization Program Act of 2007, which will authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make grants to assist cities with a vacant housing problem and additionally urging that the appropriations should be increased to \$500,000,000, and declaring an emergency

Section 2. That the Clerk of Council be, and he hereby is, directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the entire Ohio delegation of U.S. House of Representatives, Senators Sherrod Brown and George Voinovich, and Congressman Dennis Kucinich.

Section 3. That it is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements.

Section 4. That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health, safety and welfare of the City of Parma, and for the further reason that this measure is necessary due to upcoming hearings, and this Resolution shall become immediately effective upon receiving the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all members elected to Council and approval of the Mayor, otherwise from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: \_\_\_\_\_  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

FILED WITH  
THE MAYOR: \_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR, CITY OF PARMA, OHIO